



**INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS
OF BUILDING CODES & REGULATIONS #88-7**

CODE SECTION : IBC 2111.11, IRC R1003.11

05/10/96 rev. 9/16/03

SUBJECT : FIREPLACE OPENINGS

Pop-outs and other ornamentations that are constructed entirely of non-combustible materials, including framing members, shall be permitted to be placed within 12 inches of the fireplace opening and shall not be restricted in its projection. Metal framing with gypsum wall board shall meet the purpose of this provision. However, gypsum wall board will not be an acceptable material for hearth extensions, unless covered with tile or cementitious board material. Manufacturer's listing and installation instructions shall take precedence when there is a conflict with these provisions.

IRC R1003.11

Exceptions:

3. Exposed combustible trim and the edges of sheathing materials such as wood siding, flooring and drywall shall be permitted to abut the masonry fireplace side walls and hearth extension in accordance with Figure R1003.12, provided such combustible trim or sheathing is a minimum of 12 inches (305 mm) from the inside surface of the nearest firebox lining.

4. Exposed combustible mantels or trim may be placed directly on the masonry fireplace front surrounding the fireplace opening providing such combustible materials shall not be placed within 6 inches (152 mm) of a fireplace opening. Combustible material within 12 inches (306 mm) of the fireplace opening shall not project more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) for each 1-inch (25.4 mm) distance from such an opening.

R1003.12 Mantel and trim. *Woodwork or other combustible materials shall not be placed within 6 inches (152mm) of a fireplace opening. Combustible material within 12 inches (305 mm) of the fireplace opening shall not project more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) for each 1-inch (25.4 mm) distance from such opening.*